

KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS
WARRIORS TO
LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
2018



LOURDES

Lying at the foothills of the Pyrenees Mountains, this quiet town of roughly 15,000 is home to one of the world's most famous Catholic shrines dedicated to Mary: the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.



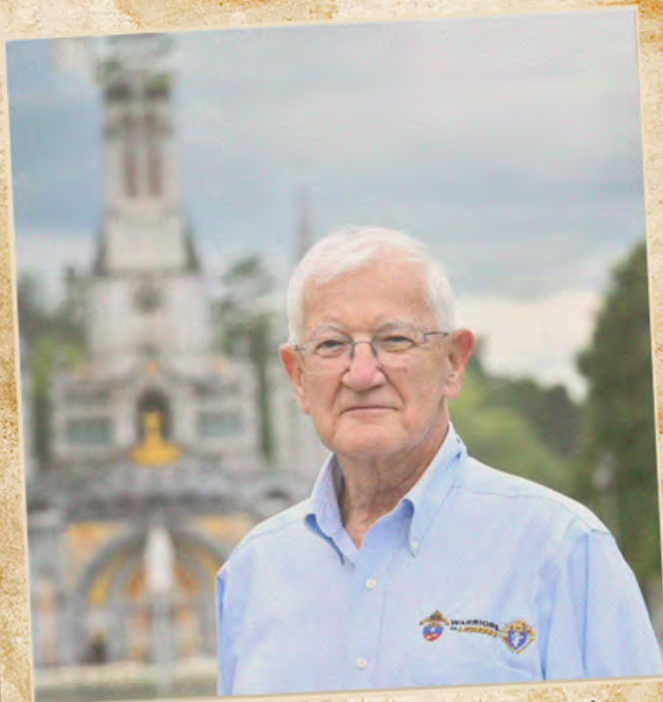
WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY 2018

1600 HOURS

The 2018 Warriors to Lourdes Pilgrimage for Non-Wounded, Wounded, Ill or Injured Military Personnel is now underway, and we welcome you to follow us on this journey of a lifetime.

For the next week, supported by the Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, these "Wounded Warriors" join thousands of international military pilgrims at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes and the healing waters of her nearby grotto to pray under the theme "Peace on Earth."

While we encourage you to track the #WarriorstoLourdes hashtag on your favorite social media channels, this virtual guidebook will give you a quick summary of the pilgrimage's many events. Videos, testimonies, photos and more will be added as the week progresses, so check back daily to see what's new.



**COL. CHUCK GALLINA, USMC (RET.),
ON THE CATHOLIC MILITARY LIFE
PODCAST.**



CLICK THE MARKS
TO EXPLORE LOURDES



EVERYDAY HEROES: "WARRIOR FOR CHRIST"



[PLAY NOW](#)

1st Sgt. Sompaul Vorapanich of the U.S. Army Special Forces is not a newcomer to the healing power of prayer and fellowship found in Lourdes. This year he's helping guide others to the same experience, serving as a leader for the 2018 pilgrims.

In this 5-minute video, he and other service men and women share a behind-the-scenes look at the pilgrimage and its impact on the families involved.



"Caroline and I were so incredibly blessed to be given the opportunity to participate in the 2017 WTL pilgrimage. I cannot say enough about what it did for us, both as individuals and as a couple, dealing with the constant challenges of active-duty service in the Marine Corps. It is very easy to lose faith or suffer both physically and spiritually, but the healing we have enjoyed, both during our trip to Lourdes and since returning, is something that I wish we could share with all of our fellow service members, particularly those in suffering."

**JONATHAN A., MARINE CORPS,
WARRIOR PILGRIM**



The Knights of Columbus

April 6, 2018

Dear Pilgrims:

As you begin this journey of faith, it is my privilege to welcome you to Lourdes. On behalf of the 1.9 million members of the Knights of Columbus, I express my sincere appreciation for the selfless service you have given, and continue to give, to our nation.

The Marian Shrine at Lourdes is a place of hope, where healings of many types take place, both physical and spiritual. It is my hope that you and your caregivers will experience an abundance of peace and consolation during your time in this holy place.

Once again, the Knights of Columbus is honored to join with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, in organizing the Warriors to Lourdes delegation for the 60th International Military Pilgrimage. This year is significant in that it marks the 100th anniversary of the conclusion of World War I. During that great conflict, the Knights of Columbus established a system of Army Huts in America and Europe that provided social, recreational and spiritual resources for Allied servicemen, with the motto "Everybody Welcome. Everything Free." Over the years, the Order has continued its service to those who serve, and the Warriors to Lourdes pilgrimage is an important part of keeping our commitment to veterans and active-duty personnel.

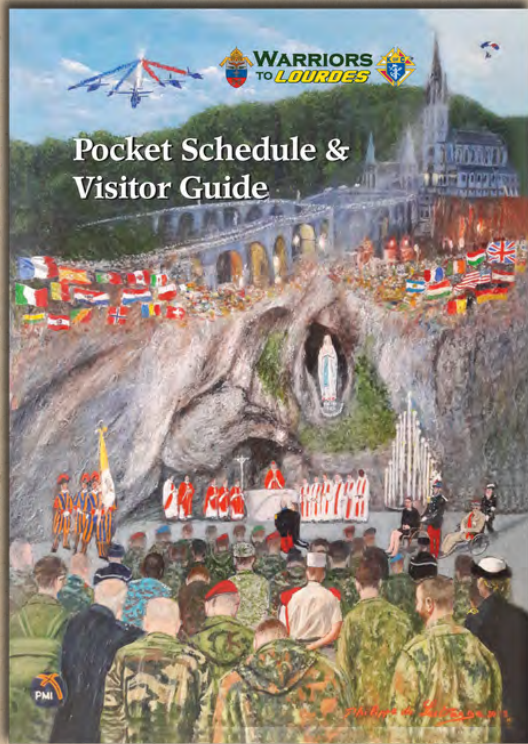
The theme of this year's pilgrimage, "*Pacem in Terris*" (Peace on Earth), reminds us of the words declared by the angelic host at the birth of Jesus, who is the Prince of Peace. On this pilgrimage, we are especially mindful of the key role our military plays in maintaining peace and of the heroic sacrifice so many of our loved ones have made in the service of peace.

During your time in Lourdes, you are invited to unite your prayers with those of the Blessed Mother, who appeared to St. Bernadette at the Grotto here 160 years ago. As you take part in the activities of this pilgrimage, I pray that you may experience Mary's motherly care and the love that comes from the heart of Jesus.

Sincerely,

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2018



visit to the Baths

WTL MASS

tour of

Our Lady of Lourdes Sanctuary

FILM ON THE LIFE OF

St. Bernadette

WELCOME MEETINGS & FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

Confession

available

"Every hour you see more pilgrims pouring in – many in different uniforms, speaking different languages. It's an overwhelming and humbling experience to take part in all this. I will forever be grateful for this blessing and this grace."

CAPT. KATHLEEN THORP, WARRIOR PILGRIM

("U.S. military find faith, spiritual boost in pilgrimage to Lourdes." Zita Ballinger Fletcher Catholic News Service, 17 May 2018)



"The Army puts so much pressure on soldiers to take care of others. I think this journey truly allows people to take a moment, step back and really take care of themselves on a spiritual side, which is where we don't touch most often."

WILLIAM STROUD, WARRIOR PILGRIM



**CLICK HERE
TO SEE MORE**

"THE WTL PILGRIMAGE REALLY DOES EMBODY ALL THE PILLARS OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: WE ARE SERVING OTHERS IN CHARITY; IT GIVES US THE CHANCE TO BOND TOGETHER AND REALLY FORM THE UNITY AND FRATERNITY THAT IS A KEY PART OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS. AND, OF COURSE, BEING HERE WITH ALL THESE DIFFERENT MILITARIES, EXPERIENCING THE PATRIOTISM THAT WE ALL SHARE TOGETHER, REALLY BRINGS ALL THOSE IDEALS TOGETHER."

TRIP LEADER PAUL ZEPERNICK

MAY
2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



FRIDAY, 18 MAY 2018

Friday had a lot in store for our Warriors, volunteers and caregivers!

A visit to the healing Baths of Lourdes; a beautiful morning participating in the Stations of the Cross; a gathering for Mass at the famous Grotto of Massabielle; the Opening Mass for American Pilgrims at the Rosary Basilica, where pilgrims were joined by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and his wife, Dorian; and finally, united with military members of more than 50 countries, the Opening Ceremony of the 60th Annual International Military Pilgrimage, held in the Basilica of St. Pius X.

As shared by Father Raymond Akeriwe, military chaplain, praying together in Lourdes offered the pilgrims "a beautiful encounter between humanity and God."

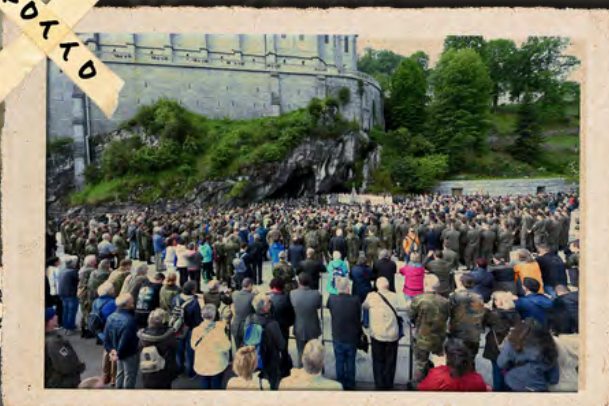


STATIONS OF THE CROSS



GROTTO

LOOKING FOR MORE?



OPENING MASS FOR AMERICAN PILGRIMS CELEBRATED IN THE ROSARY BASILICA



ANointing OF THE SICK



IN MEMORIAM



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
ARNAUD BELTRAME

18 April 1973 - 24 March 2018

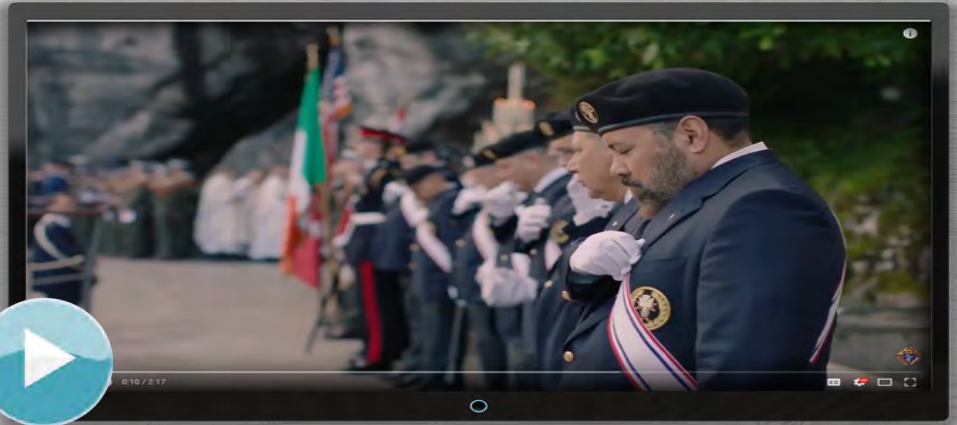
The Heroism of Arnaud Beltrame

On Friday, WTL pilgrims participated in a procession and prayer service in memory of Arnaud Jean-Georges Beltrame.

Beltrame, a lieutenant colonel in the French Gendarmerie nationale and deputy commander of the Departmental Gendarmerie's Aude unit, was killed by a terrorist at Trèbes after having exchanged himself for a hostage.

The Knights prepared prayer cards in both [English](#) and French for the service.





19 MAY 2018

Our American pilgrims began their day by gathering with hundreds of members of the armed forces of Canada, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway and other English-speaking nations to celebrate Mass at the Grotto.

Later, the streets of Lourdes shone with their candles as they joined the thousands of international military pilgrims for an evening Marian Procession.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT THE OFFICIAL WTL SITE FOR LARGER PHOTOS AND MORE!

“Ever since becoming Catholic I’ve heard about Lourdes. It is an answer to prayers that I was able to come. Whether you’re suffering emotionally or physically, you receive God’s grace. And I think that’s why people are drawn here.” — KIMBERLY COLBY, WARRIOR PILGRIM

WTL PILGRIMS, ROSARY BASILICA



Omaha World-Herald

K of C: U.S. 'Wounded Warriors' Joining Thousands of International Military Pilgrims in Lourdes

U.S. 'Wounded Warriors' Joining Thousands of International Military Pilgrims in Lourdes

U.S. military first visit, right-hand boost in pilgrim numbers

Editors: We will be posting photos to go with this story

U.S. military first visit, right-hand boost in pilgrim numbers



DID YOU MISS THEM?



Several live videos of the Marian Procession were shared on the Knights of Columbus official Twitter account.

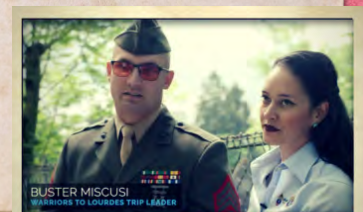
Even if you missed their debut, they're still available by visiting Twitter or the K of C Social Media Hub.



**"BEING HERE IN OUR LADY'S SHRINE, REALIZING THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT SHE HAS PLAYED, IT'S A MIRACLE TO KNOW THAT YOU HAVE A LOVING MOTHER IN HEAVEN."
FATHER DENNIS CALLAN,
MILITARY CHAPLAIN**

**BUSTER MISCUSI,
TRIP LEADER:**

"The first time we came to Lourdes we came as pilgrims, and I was in a wheelchair. I was certainly asking for healing the first time around. Lourdes offers a place for healing that really sets the foundation to not only heal internally but as a community."





THESE PHOTOS ARE FROM THE PERSONAL PHOTO ALBUM OF ARTHUR PELLERIN, A KNIGHT WHO VISITED LOURDES WHILE IN THE ARMY IN 1945. THEY ARE SHARED WITH US BY PEARLEY LACHANCE, A CHARTER MEMBER OF COUNCIL 13486 IN WATERVILLE, MAINE.

ABOVE IS ARTHUR LOOKING DOWN AT THE VILLAGE OF



LOURDES. AND ON THIS PAGE, WE SEE A FAMILIAR SIGHT -- AMERICAN MEN AND WOMEN OF THE MILITARY SEEKING THE SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALING THAT OUR LADY OFFERS.



SUNDAY, 20 MAY 2018

"We came for physical healing with my right side and speech, but we got spiritual healing and strength for the journey instead. And it was more important."

— Charles Baldinger, Warrior Pilgrim

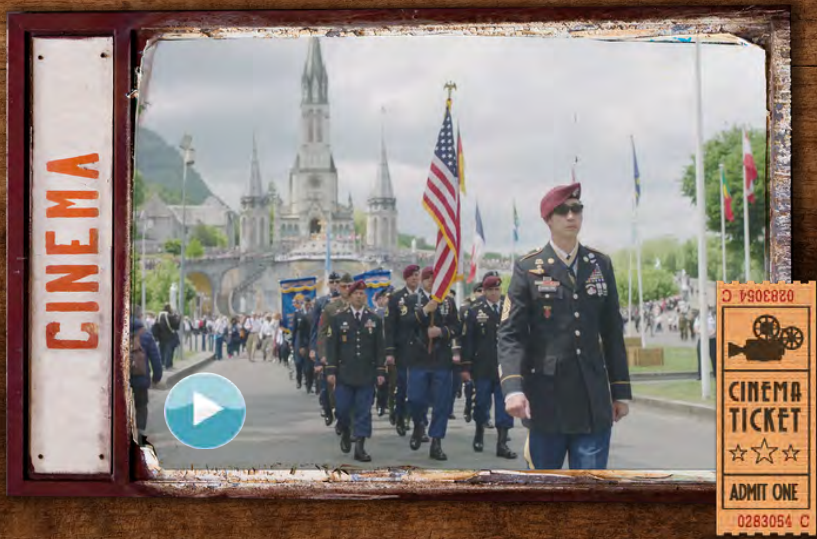
Pentecost Sunday commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Mary, the Apostles and the followers of Jesus, bestowing the Apostles with the fruits needed to go out in the world and share the gift of faith with all nations.

In this way, the day makes a fitting close for our pilgrims, who would soon leave Lourdes carrying the message of brotherhood, love and healing that the Blessed Mother inspires.

The international Mass was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Pius X. Afterward, pilgrims gathered for the Closing Ceremony of the Annual International Military Pilgrimage at the Rosary Esplanade.

"When we celebrate the Mass of Pentecost as nations from around the world, we're here to set an example that we can have a relationship of peace."

**FATHER ZACHARY MILLER,
MILITARY CHAPLAIN**



"There's this natural coming together between Knights of Columbus principles and that of our military personnel. What greater charity than to lay down your life for another; what greater unity than in a band of brothers — and of course, fraternity."

**CARL A. ANDERSON,
SUPREME KNIGHT**

You can become a part of the Warriors to Lourdes story and countless other charitable efforts worldwide. Visit us today to learn more about membership in the Knights of Columbus or how to donate to our charitable funds.

(100% of all donations serve the K of C humanitarian cause of your choice.)

